

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A pressure plate assembly for a friction clutch, comprising:
 - 2 a housing;
 - 3 a pressure plate which can rotate with said housing about an axis of rotation;
 - 5 a force-exerting arrangement supported against said housing and exerting a force on said pressure plate along a path of force transmission;
 - 7 a wear take-up element in said path of force transmission, said wear take-up element being movable to compensate for wear of said friction clutch; and
 - 9 an adjusting element which can move to cause said wear take-up element to move in order to compensate for wear, said adjusting element moving in response to centrifugal force on said adjusting element.
- 1 2. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 1 further comprising adjusting teeth assigned to said wear take-up element for movement with said wear take up element, said adjusting element comprising adjusting teeth which engage said adjusting teeth assigned to said wear take-up element in order to cause said wear take-up element to move.
- 1 3. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 2 wherein said adjusting teeth of said adjusting element can disengage said adjusting teeth of said wear take-up element.

1 4. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 3 wherein said adjusting
2 element is supported on said pressure plate with freedom to slide and pivot relative to
3 said pressure plate.

1 5. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 4 said adjusting teeth of said
2 adjusting element engage said adjusting teeth of said wear take-up element in a first
3 end position of sliding movement, and said adjusting teeth of said adjusting element
4 disengage said adjusting teeth of said wear take-up element in a second position of
5 sliding movement.

1 6. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 5 wherein said adjusting
2 element moves from said first end position to said second end position by at least one
3 of gravity and a pretensioning force of a spring.

1 7. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 5 further comprising an
2 arresting device which allows the adjusting element to move from the first end position
3 to the second end position only after wear has occurred.

1 8. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 7 wherein said arresting
2 device comprises an arresting section on said adjusting element and a clamping
3 arrangement which releases said arresting section when wear occurs and which clamps
4 the arresting section to arrest the adjusting element in the first end position in the
5 absence of wear and after a wear compensation movement of said wear take-up
6 element.

1 9. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 5 wherein said adjusting
2 element can be brought by centrifugal force from said second end position to said first
3 end position.

1 10. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 5 wherein said adjusting
2 element is pivoted into position for adjusting movement after reaching or while moving
3 into said second end position.

1 11. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 10 wherein said adjusting
2 element is pivoted into position for adjusting movement by at least one of gravity and a
3 pretensioning force of a spring.

1 12. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 10 wherein said adjusting
2 element can be pivoted by centrifugal force from said position for adjusting movement to
3 said first end position.

1 13. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 1 further comprising a wear
2 detection element on said pressure plate, said wear detection element having certain
3 areas which shift position relative to said pressure plate upon occurrence of wear.

1 14. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 8 wherein said clamping
2 arrangement comprises a wear detection element on said pressure plate, said wear
3 detection element having certain areas which shift position relative to said pressure
4 plate upon occurrence of wear.

1 15. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 13 further comprising a
2 blocking element which prevents backward movement of said wear detection element
3 relative to the pressure plate after the occurrence of wear and the shifting in position of
4 said certain areas of said wear detection element relative to said pressure plate.

1 16. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 15 wherein said blocking
2 element comprises a wedge-shaped blocking slider.

1 17. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 15 further comprising an
2 adjusting force-transmitting element connected to said wear take-up element and
3 having adjusting teeth, said adjusting element comprising adjusting teeth which engage
4 said adjusting teeth on said force transmitting element in order to cause said wear take-
5 up element to move, said adjusting force transmitting element comprising said blocking
6 element.

1 18. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 13 wherein said housing
2 comprises a counter-detection area, said wear detection element detecting occurrence
3 of wear by interaction with said counter-detection area.

1 19. A pressure plate assembly as in claim 13 wherein said force-
2 exerting arrangement comprises a counter-detection area, said wear detection element
3 detecting occurrence of wear by interaction with said counter-detection area.